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News Release

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NMCC Celebrates Graduation - Students Issued Challenges

Aroostook County - Seek new opportunities; dare to take risks; do the hard work of getting involved. These were the challenges set before Northern Maine Community College's graduating class of 2013 today (5/18) during commencement exercises.

Congressman Michael Michaud presented the commencement address.

"It takes a lot of courage to start something new or unknown," Michaud reminded the graduates. "There are always going to be critics in your life. But you can't let them get to you. Some of the most difficult decisions I made were the best ones."

This year's graduating class included 235 students representing 22 academic programs.

For the first time, the Student of the Year and student speaker was from Job Corps.

"I made a choice to take a chance with the Job Corps program; I made the choice to take a chance with college, and now my life has changed," according to Myasia Williams. "There are going to be times in your life when you're going to have to stick your neck out. There will be challenges and instead of hiding in a shell, you have to go out and meet them."

In his charge to the graduates, NMCC President Timothy Crowley focused on the duties that face educated individuals in society.

"It is your responsibility as citizens and parents and sons and daughters to get involved in your community. You will shape the future of our country," he urged them. "Keep informed and allow yourself to be outraged when events happen that are not consistent with your values. Get engaged to make this a better world."

Among the graduates this year were three members of the same family, all graduating from different programs. Jerry Hole of Presque Isle graduated with a degree in Computer Electronics; his wife Shari graduated from the Nursing program and their son, Austin, graduated from the Accounting Information systems program. Their daughter Ellen, who is taking Liberal Studies, will be a senior at the College next fall.

During the ceremony, English instructor Jennifer Graham was presented with the President's Award for meritorious service to the College. Graham has been teaching fulltime at NMCC for six years and was recognized for her commitment to students, leadership among faculty and dedication to the College's mission and goals.

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Congressman Michael Michaud (right), guest speaker for Northern Maine Community College's Commencement Ceremony on May 18, congratulates the three members of the Hole family from Presque Isle who completed their NMCC education together. From left, mom Shari graduated from the Nursing program, dad Jerry graduated from Computer Electronics, and son Austin graduated from Accounting Information Systems.